

worked only for them, onto other coal companies.

Prior to enactment of the Coal Industry Retiree Benefit Act of 1992—Coal Act—47 percent of Ohio Valley's payments to the United Mine Workers of America health and retirement funds were contributed to cover obligations of other coal companies for people who never worked for Ohio Valley or its predecessor. Yet these companies have the audacity to claim that their obligations for their former employees are no longer theirs. They would have gotten away with this dumping of their bona fide liabilities onto Ohio Valley and other coal companies had it not been for enactment of the Coal Act.

H.R. 1370 would overturn much of the Coal Act, which was a carefully crafted compromise among Democratic and Republican legislators and the Bush administration. The concept of this compromise was to require present and former employers of UMWA-represented persons to be responsible for their retirees and to avoid imposing UMWA retiree cost on other companies, such as Ohio Valley, that never employed these UMWA retirees.

Further, the limited number of corporations lobbying for H.R. 1370 and the repeal of much of the 1992 Coal Act are simply not being truthful when they claim that the UMWA combined fund will have a long-term surplus. A recent study by Ernst and Young shows that the fund will have a deficit as early as 1998 and up to \$147 million in 2004.

To claim that H.R. 1370 protects companies, such as Ohio Valley, because no funding would be required pursuant to formula to increase operators' premiums if there is a shortfall, is a total smoke screen. If the large corporate dumpers of their liabilities on the funds and other coal companies, such as Ohio Valley, are not required to pay their fair share, the time at which and the amount that a company, such as Ohio Valley, will be required to pay to the funds will be accelerated.

Having served as the chief executive officer of one of the companies lobbying for H.R. 1370, I can personally assure you that their game is to dump their retiree liabilities onto other coal companies. The Coal Act, which H.R. 1370 will largely overturn, stopped this practice.

There is no question that, if the situation is returned to that which existed prior to passage of the Rockefeller legislation, Ohio Valley will be put out of business and the 4,400 jobs that it accounts for in Ohio, according to the Pennsylvania State University, will be eliminated. Congress must do everything possible to see that H.R. 1370, or any legislation like it, is not passed.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER FINZEL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day to honor the accomplishments of Jennifer Finzel. As much as the Special Olympics are a thrill for the athletes and their families, they also teach all of us a valuable lesson in determination, achievement and the human spirit. I want to share with you a story of Jennifer Finzel of Midland, MI. Earlier this month, Jennifer trav-

eled to New Haven, CT, with a goal on her mind and determination in her heart. She knew what she wanted, and went for it. The result was two gold medals and two silver medals in four different swimming events. For her effort and for her success, I say congratulations.

But Jennifer Finzel was special long before they draped medals around her neck. Jennifer has been working hard in my office for the people of Michigan's Fourth Congressional District for over 4 years now. When she's not working at McDonalds, she's in our district office in Midland making a difference for the residents of mid-Michigan. Jennifer truly is an inspiration to everyone who seeks to achieve. Anyone who visits our district office or the McDonalds on Eastman Ave. might hear Jennifer say a lot of things. But one thing they won't hear is "I can't."

PROTECTING AMERICA'S HOUSING PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for reserving this special order. I am pleased to participate in this discussion which is focused on the importance of housing, and the role of the Federal Government in ensuring that all Americans have affordable housing opportunities. The special order this evening is extremely timely and necessary in light of the attacks on the Department of Housing and Urban Development by the GOP leadership in this Congress.

I have a firsthand knowledge of some of the housing problems confronting the Nation. I serve as the ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs-Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies. This panel oversees the Nation's \$25.5 million housing budget. Through our subcommittee hearings, field trips, and studies and examinations, we are provided a closeup look at the increasingly grave housing situation in this Nation. In order to legislate solutions in the Halls of Congress, we all realize that you must first have a clear understanding of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, our Federal housing programs assist 4.7 million households through public housing and Section 8 rental assistance. We know that: 36 percent of the households are elderly; 15 percent are persons with disabilities; and 43 percent are families with children. We also understand that the median income of these households is \$8,000 per year.

This week, the Appropriations Committee completed mark-up of the fiscal year 1996 VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill. As the ranking member on the panel, I am deeply disturbed by the funding cuts which the Republican leadership has advanced in this bill. When we look at cuts to housing programs, we note that hardest hit are those programs that provide affordable and decent housing for the elderly and poor.

The appropriations bill cuts HUD's funding by \$5.5 billion. They saw fit to cut funding for homeless assistance grants by nearly 50 percent. In addition, funding for development and

severely distressed public housing is eliminated, as well as new housing vouchers and certificates for the poor. Further, in this bill, modernization funds are cut by over \$1 billion and operating subsidies are reduced by \$400 million.

These cuts are in addition to damaging legislation that would repeal the Brooke amendment. The Brooke amendment is legislation which limits the percentage of income that poor people living in federally assisted housing can pay. Repealing this amendment increases the costs borne by the Nation's poor. Several other harmful provisions with regard to rent increases are also in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, this callous action by the appropriations panel represents a critical assault on our Nation's housing programs. The bill guts many of the critical safety net and human needs programs upon which the elderly, the poor, and low-income families depend. I am concerned that we are retreating on our commitment of affordable and decent housing as a national priority. For this reason, I am pleased to join my colleagues for this special order. Our participation this evening demonstrates our strong commitment to ensuring a strong and significant role in providing housing for all Americans.

HOUSING SPECIAL ORDER TOMORROW NIGHT
(JULY 19)

To members of Dem. Task Force on Housing and other Housing supporters

Fr Representatives JOE KENNEDY, HENRY GONZALEZ, VIC FAZIO, BARBARA B. KENNELLY

Re Housing Special Order on Wednesday, July 19

Dt July 18, 1995

This is a reminder that tomorrow night after regular business there will be a special order on the importance of housing and the role the Federal government has played in trying to ensure that all Americans have affordable housing opportunities.

The Appropriations committee has targeted housing for extremely deep and very serious cuts which will undermine this mission.

We need to move quickly and forcefully to restore these crucial funds for housing, and to explain to the American people how important and successful most federal housing programs have been in serving working and poor Americans.

Please have your staff contact Jonathan Miller in Rep. Kennedy's office (5-5111) or Nancy Libson of the Housing Subcommittee (5-7054) if you would like to participate in this special order.

TURKEY AS A STRATEGIC ASSET

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention a recent op-ed piece which appeared in the Washington Times and which I believe deserves attention.

Alexander Haig writes from the point of view of both a former Secretary of State and NATO's former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. I hope my colleagues will take time to read this valuable piece and carefully consider its message.